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Norway Expels 5 Soviet Envoys, Bars 4 Others in Spy Case

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OSLO, Feb. 1—Norway reduced Soviet diplomatic personnel in Oslo today by expelling five diplomats and barring the embassy from replacing them, a step officials said was without precedent in the 60 years of Norwegian-Soviet relations.

As an additional reaction to the disclosure that a Norwegian diplomat, formerly a deputy minister, had been spying for the Soviet Union for more than 10 years, the Norwegian government also banned four diplomats previously stationed in Norway from returning to the country.

The Norwegian diplomat, Arne Treholt, was arrested at the Oslo airport Jan. 20 on his way to a meeting in Vienna with an official of the Soviet secret police, the KGB. He carried classified documents in his attache case and admitted after his arrest to having worked for the Soviets for a number of years.

Although Norwegian officials have played down any damage from the incident, the case is generally thought to be the most serious spy episode in Norway since World War II.

As a deputy minister in the late 1970s, in Odvar Nordli's Labor government, Treholt had access to highly classified information. Also, he had an extremely wide circle of friends and knew most people active at the top level of Norwegian politics.

Apart from his year at the Norwegian defense college in 1982-1983, he did not have much to do with military matters. But his information about Norwegian

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politics is thought to have been extremely valuable and interesting to the Soviet government.

The Soviet ambassador to Norway, former Politburo member Dmitri Polyansky, was informed of the expulsion in a 15-minute meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Sverre Strøm. In a press conference an hour later, Strøm said that the Soviet government must carry full responsibility for the considerable damage done to Norwegian-Soviet relations.

"The Norwegian government views the transgression of diplomatic conduct with the utmost severity," he added.

In a vitriolic reply, the Soviet Embassy said in a press statement that the Treholt case was a "provocation instigated by the Norwegian police and by circles who want to undermine Norwegian-Soviet relations." The embassy also charged that a representative of the Norwegian police had approached a Soviet citizen in Vienna and offered him \$500,000 if he would defect to the West.

The statement gave no date for this alleged episode.

At his press conference, the foreign minister stated that Norway may consider further expulsion of Soviet diplomats if the Soviet government retaliates by expelling Norwegian representatives in Moscow. In view of the vehement language in the embassy statement, diplo-

rats here thought such Soviet retaliation to be most likely.

Two of the diplomats expelled were identified by police sources as high KGB officials. They are Leonid Makarov, the third-ranking Soviet diplomat here, and Stanislav Tchegotok, a first secretary.

Tchegotok was linked to a spy case in Denmark in the late 1970s. By then, he had left that country for Norway. In Norway, he allegedly has been offering money to people who would be willing to write letters to newspapers with criticism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's policy on nuclear weapons.

Among the four diplomats barred from returning here is Yevgeni Belyayev, who served in Oslo from 1967 to 1971. His naming led to speculation that he was the one who hired Treholt to work for the Soviets.

Two of the other diplomats were photographed surreptitiously by Norwegian police in Vienna in August in the company of Treholt.

The third man, Vladimir Zhizhin, was Treholt's contact in New York in the early 1980s when they both served there as members of the United Nations delegations for their respective countries. Previously, Zhizhin was press attache in Oslo.

The police are divulging very little information from the questioning of Treholt. He is said to be cooperating fully with the police, and one police source said that his testimony amounted to 60 typewritten pages within 30 hours after his arrest.